UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Friday, 3 May 2024
8:30 am
via Zoom (https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/98005927668?from=addon)

1. Minutes

Michelle Trim is responsible for the minutes of this meeting. If she is unable to attend, Ruth-Ellen Verock-O'Loughlin is responsible.

Minutes from March 8, 2024 were approved as amended.
Minutes from April 5, 2024 were approved as amended.

2. Discussion items

a. Appointment policies (Provost's request related to Associate Dean reviews and UWW request)

The committee discussed the question of the best way to handle the review requirement for ADs that Deans want to reappoint, but whose terms end this year. The committee reached consensus that the best compromise in keeping with the recently passed policy is to extend the appointment by one year and undertake a one-semester length review, after which, the AD could be reappointed for a full term.

The committee discussed the situation in UWW with the removal of department status and agreed that perhaps having an interim Dean alongside the Vice Provost title in order to fit with other university practices and procedures.

b. CIP procedures

The committee reviewed the existing procedure for CIP code assignment/changes. There was no proposal for changes to the existing procedure which is not currently a Senate process.

c. Proposed name change to the Department of Resource Economics

The committee reviewed current practices related to program and department name changes, and generally discussed the potential for conflict of interest in those practices. No recommendations were made.

d. CHC thesis seminars

A subcommittee is to be created to do a review of the thesis requirement, and the CHC committee will analyze data generated by that review to determine how this requirement is being completed. Membership of the review subcommittee was determined and accepted.

e. Assignment of the proposed amendment to the syllabus policy

Prompted by a proposal from the graduate school that links be used instead of the required syllabus statements, the committee discussed overhead/accuracy challenges related to faculty updating their syllabi as required statements change. Discussion ensued about alternative approaches to faculty listing and repeating required policies on their syllabi. Consensus was reached to ask the graduate school proposers to revise their proposal to focus just on graduate student policies to avoid replicating a recent proposal that was already reviewed and voted down by the Undergraduate Education Council.

f. Reviewing General Education

The committee discussed impending general education review, emphasizing the key role the Senate will need to play in this review as it unfolds.

g. Reviewing add/drop deadlines - postponed

h. Flex 2.0 and academic policies - postponed

i. Strategic planning - postponed

j. Secretary updates (Ombuds search; academic calendar; disability services; budget) - postponed